# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE: WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER SITE LITIGATION

21 MC 100 (AKH)

RONALD LINGO,

06 Civ.

Plaintiff(s),

Hon. Alvin K. Hellerstein, U.S.D.J.

-against-

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC, ET AL.,

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL** 

Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that AMEC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC., BOVIS LEND LEASE LMB, INC., TULLY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC., AND TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (collectively "Defendants") hereby remove the above-entitled action (the "Action") from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441, § 1442(a)(1), § 1446(a), § 1446(b) and the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, Public Law No. 107-42, § 401 et seq., 115 Stat. 230 (2001) (the "ATSSSA") (codified as amended at 49 U.S.C. §40101 (2001)).

In support of this Notice of Removal, Defendants state:

1. On or about October 27, 2006, Plaintiff(s) filed a Summons with Notice in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York. Plaintiff(s) assert claims resulting from, relating to, and arising out of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. A true copy of the Summons with Notice is attached to this Notice of Removal.

- 2. On or about November 20, 2006, Defendants received the Summons with Notice in this Action bearing Index Number 115257/06.
- 3. Because these claims arise out of Plaintiff(s)' alleged injuries resulting from, relating to, and arising out of the September 11, 2001 terrorist-related aircraft crashes, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York has original and exclusive jurisdiction over the Action. Specifically in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Congress enacted the ATSSSA on September 22, 2001, which created a comprehensive scheme addressing numerous matters resulting from the attacks. Section 408(b) of the ATSSSA contains a broad jurisdictional provision centralizing in the Southern District of New York the resolution of any litigation claims resulting from or relating to the events of September 11, 2001:

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all actions brought for any claim (including any claim for loss of property, personal injury, or death) resulting from or relating to the terroristrelated aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

Pub. L. No. 107-42, § 408(b)(3), 115 Stat. 230, 241 (2001).

4. In addition, Section 408(b)(1) of the ATSSSA creates a federal cause of action over which this Court has original jurisdiction. It provides:

> There shall exist a Federal cause of action for damages arising out of the hijacking and subsequent crashes of American Airlines flights 11 and 77, and United Airlines flights 93 and 175, on September 11, 2001. Notwithstanding section 40120(c) of title 49, United States Code, this cause of action shall be the exclusive remedy for damages arising out of the hijacking and subsequent crashes of such flights.

Pub. L. No. 107-42, § 408(b)(1), 115 Stat. 230, 240-241 (2001).

5. Furthermore, In In re: WTC Disaster Site, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit conclusively recognized the original and exclusive jurisdiction in the Southern District of New York for claims relating to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. See In re: WTC Disaster Site, 414 F.3d 352, 375–380 (2d Cir. 2005).

- 6. Based on the foregoing, the Action is removable from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441.
- 7. The Action is also removable based upon 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1). Section 1442(a)(1) provides:
  - (a) A civil action . . . commenced in a State court against any of the following may be removed by them to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place wherein it is pending:
  - (1) The United States or any agency thereof or any officer (or any person acting under that officer) of the United States or of any agency thereof, sued in an official or individual capacity for any act under color of such office....
- 8. Federal agencies and officers exercised control over particular health, safety and other issues relating to the rescue, recovery, cleanup, debris removal and/or construction efforts at the World Trade Center ("WTC") site following the attacks on September 11, 2001.
- 9. Defendants complied with the directives of those federal agencies and officers in performing these activities at the WTC site, and therefore have at least a colorable federal immunity defense.
- 10. Moreover, because the federal agencies and officers exercised control over these issues, a causal nexus exists between the Plaintiff(s)' claims and Defendants' alleged activities.
- 11. Therefore, the Action is removable from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1).
  - 12. Consent of all defendants to removal here is unnecessary as § 408(b)(1) of the

ATSSSA provides for original and exclusive jurisdiction in the Southern District of New York for claims relating to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. Pub. L. No. 107-42, § 408(b)(3), 115 Stat. 230, 241 (2001); *Ackerman v. Nat'l. Property Analysts*, 1992 WL 84477 at \*1 (S.D.N.Y. 1992). Consent of all defendants here is also unnecessary pursuant to § 1442(a)(1). *Bradford v. Harding*, 284 F.2d 307, 310 (2d Cir. 1960).

- 13. Defendants' Notice of Removal is timely as the Notice of Removal will be filed within thirty days of Defendants' receipt of the Summons with Notice. See 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).
- 14. A copy of this Notice of Removal will be filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York, and will be served on Plaintiff(s)' counsel pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).
- 15. Pursuant to Rule 81.1(b) of the local civil rules for the Southern District of New York, Defendants will forward a copy of all records and proceedings in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York within 20 days.
  - 16. Defendants reserve the right to amend or supplement this Notice of Removal.

WHEREFORE, Defendants hereby remove to this Court the action now pending against them in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York, bearing Index No. 115257/06.

Dated: Newark, New Jersey December 8, 2006 PATTON BOGGS LLP

By:

James E. Tyrrell, Jr. (JT-6837)
One Riverfront Plaza, 6th floor

Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 868-5600

JTyrrell@PattonBoggs.com

Attorneys for AMEC Construction Management, Inc., Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc., Tully Construction Co., Inc., and Turner Construction Company.

TO: Christopher R. LoPalo Worby Groner Edelman & Napoli Bern, LLP 115 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10006 NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE OCT 27 2006

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SUMMONS WITH NOTICE

RONALD LINGO,

COUNTY OF NEW YORK

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Index No:

115257/06

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC, ET AL. (SEE ATTACHED RIDER)

Defendant(s):

To the above-named defendant(s):

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon plaintiff's/plaintiffs' attorney, at the address stated below, a notice of appearance or demand for a complaint.

If this summons was personally delivered upon you in the State of New York, the answer must be served within twenty days after such service of the summons, excluding the date of service. If the summons was not personally delivered to you within the State of New York, the answer must be served within thirty days after service of the summons is complete as provided by law.

The nature of this action is to recover money damages and any other relief that the Court deems just and proper for exposure to toxic contaminants, including but not limited to: fumes, gasses, mists, vapors, dust, fibers, particles, substances, and/or radiation at or around the World Trade Center Site, Ground Zero, Fresh Kills Landfill, and/or in the area and buildings surrounding the World Trade Center Site following terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. This exposure caused plaintiff's/plaintiffs' injuries, including but not limited to: acid reflux disease, asthma, Barrets Esophagus, bronchial inflammation, bronchitis, bullous disease of the lungs, cancer, chemical pneumonitis, chronic bronchitis, chronic cough, chronic laryngitis, chronic pneumonia, chronic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, gastroesophageal disease (GERD), hearing loss, laryngitis, malignant mesothelioma, nasal polyps, neurological problems, peritonsillar cellulitis, pharyngitis, pneumonia, polyps on the larynx, polyps on the throat, reactive airway dysfunction syndrome (RADS), rhinitis, sarcoidosis, silicosis, sinus polyps, sinusitis, ulcerative colitis, vocal chord dysfunction, and exacerbation of a prior existing condition or conditions.

Your action(s) and/or failure to act, constitutes carelessness, negligence and/or recklessness, and is the sole and proximate cause of plaintiff's/plaintiffs' toxic exposure, and resulting injuries, illnesses and damages.

Your failure and/or the failure of your agents, servants, representatives and/or employees to comply with, including but not limited to, the following: General Municipal Law of the State of New York §205-e and §205-a; the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 654 et seq.; Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, including but not limited to, 29 C.F.R. §1910 Subparts H, I, J, K and Z, and specifically 29 C.F.R. §\$1910.38, 1910.120, 1910.132-134, 1910.146,





1910.156, 1910.1001, 1910.1025, 1910.1027, 1910.1000 and 1910.1200; 29 C.F.R. §1926 Subparts C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J and Z; The New York Industrial Code, including but not limited to: §§23-1.5, 23-1.7, 23-1.8, 23-1.9, 23-1.25, 23-1.26 and 23-2.1; New York State Labor Law, including but not limited to: §§200, 240, 241(6), Article 2, §27-a, Article 28, 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §820.4; and other applicable Federal, State and local rules, regulations, ordinances and statutes is the proximate cause of plaintiff's/plaintiffs' injuries, toxic exposure and resulting damages.

If you do not serve a notice of appearance or demand for a complaint within the applicable time limitation stated above, a judgment may be entered against you, by default, for a sum greater than the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, with interest, and the costs and disbursements of this action.

The action will be heard in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, in and for the County of New York. The basis of venue is N.Y. C.P.L.R. §509.

Dated: New York, New York October 3, 2006

Christopher R. LoPalo
Attorney for Plaintiff

WORBY GRONER EDELMAN & NAPOLI BERN, LLP

115 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor
New York, New York 10006

(212) 267-3700

#### RIDER

RONALD LINGO,

### PLAINTIFFS,

- AGAINST -

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1 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC; 1 WTC HOLDINGS LLC; 2 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC.; 2 WTC HOLDINGS LLC.; 4 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC.; 4 WTC HOLDING LLC.; 5 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC.; 5 WTC HOLDING LLC.; 7 WORLD TRADE COMPANY, L.P.; A RUSSO WRECKING, INC.; ABM INDUSTRIES, INC.; ABM JANITORIAL NORTHEAST, INC.; AMEC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC.; AMEC EARTH & ENVORONMENTAL, INC.; ANTHONY CORTESE SPECIALIZED HAULING LLC.; ATLANTIC HEYDT CORP.; BECHTEL ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION; BECHTEL CONSTRUCTION, INC.; BECHTEL CORPORATION; BECHTEL ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.; BERKEL & COMPANY, CONTRACTORS, INC.; BIG APPLE WRECKING & CONSTRUCTION CORP; BOVIS LEND LEASE LMB, INC.; BOVIS LEND LEASE, INC.; BREEZE CARTING CORP; BREEZE NATIONAL INC.; BRER-FOUR TRANSPORTATION CORP.; BURO HAPPOLD CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.; C.B. CONTRACTING CORP; CANRON CONSTRUCTION CORP.; CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.; CORD CONTRACTING CO., INC.; CRAIG TEST BORING COMPANY INC.; DAKOTA DEMO-TECH; DIAMOND POINT EXCAVATING CORP; DIEGO CONSTRUCTION, INC.; DIVERSIFIED CARTING, INC.; DMT ENTERPRISE, INC. D'ONOFRIO GENERAL CONTRACTORS CORP.; EAGLE LEASING & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC.; EAGLE ONE ROOFING CONTRACTORS INC; EAGLE SCAFFOLDING CO., INC.; EJ DAVIES, INC.; EN-TECH CORP.; ET ENVIRONMENTAL; EVERGREEN RECYCLING OF CORONA(EROC); EWELL W. FINLEY, P.C.; EXECUTIVE MEDICAL SERVICES, P.C.; F&G MECHANICAL, INC.; FLEET TRUCKING, INC.; FRANCIS A. LEE EXTERIOR RESTORATION, INC.; FTI TRUCKING, INC.; GILSANZ, MURRAY, & STEFICEK, LLP, GOLDSTEIN ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS, PLLC.; HALLEN WELDING SERVICE, INC.; H.P. ENVIRONMENTAL; KOCH SKANSKA INC; LAQUILA CONSTRUCTION INC.; LASTRADA GENERAL CONTRACTING CORP.; LESLIE E. ROBERTSON ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS P.C.; LIBERTY MUTUAL GROUP; LOCKWOOD, KESSLER & BARTLETT, INC.; LUCIUS PITKIN, INC.; LZA TECH-DIV OF THORTON TOMASETTI; MANAFORT BROTHERS INCORPORATED; MAZZOCCHI WRECKING, INC.; MERIDIAN CONSTRUCTION CORP.; MORETRENCH AMERICAN CORP.; MRA ENGINEERING, PC; MUESER RUTLEDGE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC; NACIREMA INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED; NEW YORK CRANE & EQUIPMENT CORP.; NICHOLS ON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY; PETER SCALAMANDRE & SONS, INC.; PINNACLE ENVIRONMENTAL CORP.; PLAZA CONSTRUCTION CORP.; PRO SAFETY SERVICES LLC.; PT & L CONTRACTING CORP.; REGIONAL SCAFFOLDING & HOISTING CO., INC.; ROBER SILMAN ASSOCIATES; ROBERT L. GEROSA, INC.; RODAR ENTERPRISES, INC.; ROYAL GM, INC; SAB TRUCKING INC.; SAFEWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CORP.; SEASONS INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTING; SEMCOR EQUIPMENT & MANUFACTURING CORP.; SILVERITE CONTRACTING CORPORATION; SILVERSTEIN DEVELOPMENT CORP; SILVERSTEIN PROPERTIES INC; SILVERSTEIN PROPERTIES; SILVERSTEIN WTC FACILITY MANAGER LLC.; SILVERSTEIN WTC LLC; SILVERSTEIN WTC MGMT CO. LLC.; SILVERSTEIN WTC PROPERTIES LLC.; SILVERSTEIN WTC, LLC a/k/a SILVERSTEIN WTC PROPERTY; SIMPSON GUMPERTZ & HEGER INC.; SKIDMORE, OWING & MERRILL LLP; SURVIVAIR; TISHMAN CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION OF MANHATTAN; TISHMAN CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION OF NEW YORK; TISHMAN INTERIORS CORPORATION; TISHMAN SPEYER PROPERTIES; THORTON-TOMASETTI GROUP, INC.; TORRETTA TRUCKING, INC.; TOTAL SAFETY CONSULTING, L.L.C.; TUCCI EQUIPMENT RENTAL CORP.; TULLY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.; TULLY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY; TULLY ENVIRONMENTAL INC.; TULLY INDUSTRIES, INC.; TURNER CONSTRUCTION CO.; TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY; ULTIMATE DEMOLITION/CS HAULING (JOINT VENTURE); VERIZON NEW YORK INC; VOLLMER ASSOCIATES ILP.; W HARRIS & SONS INC.; WEEKS MARINE, INC.; WEIDLINGER ASSOCIATES, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.; WHITNEY CONTRACTING INC.; WOLKOW-BRAKER ROOFING CORP.; WORLD TRADE CENTER PROPERTIES LLC.; WSP CANTOR SEINUK; YANNUZZI & SONS, INC; YONKERS CONTRACTING COMPANY, INC.; YORK HUNTER CONSTRUCTION, LLC; ZIEGENFUSS DRILLING, INC.,

DEFENDANTS.



#### Defendants' Addresses:

I WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

I WTC HOLDINGS LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

2 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

2 WTC HOLDINGS LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

4 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

4 WTC HOLDINGS LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

5 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

5 WTC HOLDINGS LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

7 WORLD TRADE COMPANY, L.P. Carb, Luria, Glassner, Cook & Kufeld 529 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10017
C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq.
7 World Trade Center 38th Floor
New York, NY 10048

A RUSSO WRECKING C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

ABM INDUSTRIES, INC.
C/O JEFFERY SAMEL & PARTNERS
150 BROADWAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

ABM JANITORIAL NORTHEAST, INC. C/O JEFFERY SAMEL & PARTNERS 150 BROADWAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

AMEC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

AMEC EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
C/O Patton Boggs, LLP
1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

D'ONOFRIO GENERAL CONTRACTORS CORP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

DAKOTA DEMO-TECH 140 Old Northport Road Kings Park, NY 11754

DIAMOND POINT EXCAVATING CORP
C/O Patton Boggs, LLP
1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

DIEGO CONSTRUCTION, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

DIVERSIFIED CARTING, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

DMT ENTERPRISE, INC. 255 Lake Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701

EAGLE LEASING & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY 1726 FLATBUSH AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11210

EAGLE ONE ROOFING CONTRACTORS INC., 18-6045 Street Astoria, NY 11105

EAGLE SCAFFOLDING CO, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

EJ DAVIES, INC., C/O Pation Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

EN-TECH CORP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

ETENVIRONMENTAL
C/O CT CORPORATION SYSTEM
111 Eighth Avenuc
New York, NY 10011

EVERGREEN RECYCLING OF CORONA(EROC) C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07 102

EWELL W. FINLEY, P.C., C/O Milber Makris Plousadis & Seiden, LLP

3 Barker Avenue, 6th White Plains, NY 10601

EXECUTIVE MEDICAL SERVICES, P.C., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP

\*MERIDIAN CONSTRUCTION CORP. 22-1949<sup>th</sup> Street Astoria, NY 11105

MORETRENCH AMERICAN CORPORATION C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

MRA ENGINEERING P.C., 600 Hempstead Turnpike West Hempstead, NY 11552-1036

MUESER RUTLEDGE CONSULTING ENGINEERS C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

NACIREMA INDUSTRI ES INCORPORATED 211 West 5th Street Bayonne, NJ 07002

NEW YORK CRANE & EQUIPMENT CORP. Brooklyn Navy Yard Brooklyn, NY 11205

NICHOLSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

PETER SCALAMANDRE & SONS, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

PINNACLE ENVIRONMENTAL CORP C/O Paul O'Brien 64-54 Maurice Avenue Maspeth, NY 11378

PLAZA CONSTRUCTION CORP. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup>. Floor Newark, NJ 07102

PRO SAFETY SERVICES, LLC Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

PT & L CONTRACTING CORP 1 Kalisa Way Ste 301 Paramus, NJ 07652

REGIONAL SCAFFOLD & HOISTING CO., INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

ROBER SILMAN ASSOCIATES SIMPSON GUMPERTZ & HEGER INC C/O NATIONAL REGISTERED AGENTS, INC., 41 Seyon Street Building 1, Suite 500 Waltham, MA 02453

SKIDMORE OWINGS & MERRILL LLP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 97102

SURVIVAIR 3001 S SUSAN ST SANTA ANA, CA 92704

TISHMAN CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION OF MANHATTAN C/O Cozen O'Connor 1 1 Newark Center, Suite 1900 Newark, NJ 07102

TISHMAN CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION OF NEW YORK C/O Cozen O'Connor 1 Newark Center, Suite 1900 Newark, NJ 07102

TISHMAN INTERIORS CORPORATION C/O Daniel R. Tishman 666 5th Avenue New York, NY 10103

TISHMAN SPEYER PROPERTIES C/O Daniel R. Tishman 666 5th Avenue New York, NY 10103

THORTON-TOMASETTI GROUP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

TORRETTA TRUCKING, INC 120 MOUNTAINVIEW AVENUE STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314

TOTAL SAFETY CONSULTING, LLC C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

TUCCI EQUIPMENT RENTAL CORP Dancen Gazzola 3495 Rombouts Avenue Bronx, NY 10475

TULLY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
C/O Patton Boggs, LLP
1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

TULLY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

TULLY ENVIRONMENT, INC.





ANTHONY CORTESE SPECIALIZED
- HAULING LLC.
C/O Patton Boggs, LLP
1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

ATLANTIC HEYDT CORP C/O FRENCH & RAFTER, LLP 29 BROADWAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10006

BECHTEL ASSOCIATES
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
C/O Patton Boggs, LLP
1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

BECHTEL CONSTRUCTION, INC., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

BECHTEL CORPORATION C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

BECHTEL ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP
1 Riverfront Plaza, 6 h Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

BERKEL & COMPANY, CONTRACTORS, INC., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

BIG APPLE WRECKING & CONSTRUCTION CORP
C/O Patton Boggs, LLP
1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>4</sup> Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

BOVIS LEND LEASE LMB, INC. C/O Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass One Battery Park Plaza New York, NY 10004

BOVIS LEND LEASE, INC. C/O Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass One Battery Park Plaza New York, NY 10004

BREEZE CARTING CORP 31 Bay Street Brooklyn, NY 11231

BREEZE NATIONAL, INC., 31 Bay Street Brooklyn, NY 11231

BRER-FOUR TRANSPORTATION CORP. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

BURO HAPPOLD CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

C.B. CONTRACTING CORP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102 <sup>th</sup>

F&G MECHANIČAL, INC., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

FLEET TRUCKING, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

FRANCIS A. LEE COMPANY, A CORPORATION 35 Bethpage Road Hicksville, NY 11801

FTI TRUCKING C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

GILSANZ MURRAY STEFICEK, LLP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

GOLDSTEIN ASSOCIATES . CONSULTING ENGINEERS, PLLC 31 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10001

HALLEN WELDING SERVICE, INC. C/O Kaplan, Von Ohlen & Massamillo, LLC 90 Park Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10016

HP ENVIRONMENTAL C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfrom Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

KOCH SKANSKA INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

LAQUILA CONSTRUCTION INC C/O Frederick N. Levine, P.E. 305 Broadway, Suite 500 New York, NY 10007

LASTRADA GENERAL CONTRACTING CORP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

LESLIE E. ROBERTSON ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEER P.C. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

LIBERTY MUTUAL GROUP C/O CT CORPORATION SYSTEM 111 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10011

LOCKWOOD KESSLER & BARTLETT, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102 C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

ROBERT L GEROSA, INC C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

RODAR ENTERPRISES, INC C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront P laza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

ROYAL GM INC., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

SAB TRUCKING INC. C/O SAVERIO ANASTASIO 7 Pironi Court Woodbury, NY 11797

SAFEWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CORP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

SEASONS INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTING, 266 GREEN VALLEY RD STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312

SEMCOR EQUIPMENT & MANUFACTURING CORP. 18 Madison Street Keyport, NJ 07735

SILVERITE CONTRACTING CORPORATION C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

SILVERSTEIN
DEVELOPMENT CORP.
C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq.
7 World Trade Center 38th Floor
New York, NY 10048

SILVERSTEIN PROPERTIES, INC. C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

SILVERSTEIN PROPERTIES C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

SILVERSTEIN WTC FACILITY MANAGER LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

SILVERSTEIN WTC LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

SILVERSTEIN WTC MGMT CO LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

TULLY INDUSTRIES, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

TURNER CONSTRUCTION CO. C/O London Fischer, LLP 59 Maiden Lane New York, NY 10038

TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY C/O London Fischer, LLP 59 Maiden Lane New York, NY 10038

ULTIMATE DEMOLITIONS/CS HAULING 500 New Street Oceanside, NY 11572

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VERIZON NEW YORK, INC. C/O CT CORPORATION SYSTEM 111 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10011

VOLLMER ASSOCIATES LLP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

W HARRIS & SONS INC 37 West Washington Avenue Pearl River, NY 10965

WEEKS MARINE, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

WEIDLINGER ASSOCIATES, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newatk, NJ 07102

WHITNEY CONTRACTING INC. C/O Joanne Pisano, P.C. 1250 Central Park Avenue Yonkers, NY 10704

WOLKOW-BRAKER ROOFING CORP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

WORLD TRADE CENTER PROPERTIES LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

WSP CANTOR SEINUK GROUP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

YANNUZZI & SONS INC 56 Oakwood Avenue Orange, NJ 07050

YONKERS CONTRACTING





Newark, NJ 07102

CANRON CONSTRUCTION CORP C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC., 4 Irving Place New York, New York 10003

CORD CONTRACTING CO., INC C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

CRAIG TEST BORING COMPANY INC. PO Box 427 Mays Landing, NJ 08330 LUCIUS PITKIN, INC C/O Stein and Stein-666 Old Country Road Garden City, NY 11530

LZA TECH-DIV OF THORTON TOMASETTI C/O Patton Boggs, LLP I Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

MANAFORT BROTHERS, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

MAZZOCCHI WRECKING, INC. C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

SILVERSTEIN WTC PROPERTIES LLC C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq. 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048

SILVERSTEIN WTC, LLC a/k/a SILVERSTEIN WTC PROPERTY

 C/O Edward Tanenhouse, Esq.
 7 World Trade Center 38th Floor New York, NY 10048 COMPANY, INC., C/O Patton Boggs, LLP 1 Riverfront Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, NJ 07102

YORK HUNTER CONSTRUCTION, LLC 107 Old Goshen Road South Seaville, NJ 08246

ZIGENFUSS DRILLING, INC., C/O CT CORPORATION SYSTEM\ 111 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10011



## ATTORNEY VERIFICATION

CHRISTOPHER R. LOPALO, an attorney at law, duly admitted to practice in the Courts of the State of New York, affirms under the penalties of perjury that:

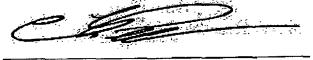
He is the attorney for the plaintiff(s) in the above-entitled action.

That he has read the foregoing SUMMONS WITH NOTICE and knows the contents thereof, and upon information and belief, deponent believes the matters alleged therein to be true.

The reason this Verification is made by deponent and not by the plaintiff(s) is that the plaintiff(s) herein reside(s) in a county other than the one in which the plaintiff's attorneys maintain their office.

The source of deponent's information and the grounds of his belief are communication, papers, reports and investigation contained in the file.

DATED: New York, New York October 3, 2006



CHRISTOPHER R. LOPALO, Esq.



| Index No         | :<br>SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK<br>COUNTY OF NEW YORK  |
|------------------|--|
| . ====           | RONALD LINGO,  |
|                  | Plaintiff(s) - against -   |
|                  | 1 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC, ET. AL.,   |
|                  | Defendant(s).  |
| <del>===</del> = | SUMMONS WITH NOTICE  |
|                  | WORBY GRONER EDELMAN & NAPOLI BERN, LLP  Attorneys for: Plaintiff(s)  Office and Post Office Address, Telephone  115 Broadway - 12th Floor  New York, New York 10006  (212) 267-3700 |
|                  | To Attorney(s) for   |
| <del></del>      | Service of a copy of the within is hereby admitted.  Dated,  |
|                  | Attorney(s) for  |
| <del>====</del>  | PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:  |
| i                | NOTICE OF ENTRY  that the within is a (certified) true copy of an  duly entered in the office of the clerk of the within named court on20  |
| ļ                | That an orderof which the within is a true copy will be presented for settlement to the HON one of the judges of the within named Court, at M M Dated,                               |
|                  | Yours, etc.,<br>WORBY GRONER EDELMAN & NAPOLI BERN, LLP  |

